IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 1, line 4 with the following paragraph:

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/487,643, filed July 15, 2003, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

This application is related to co-pending application Serial No. 10/669,930 ~~10/___,___ (Attorney Reference No. 03-0838/1496.00329)~~, filed September 24, 2003 which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 4, line 3 with the following paragraph:

The objects, features and advantages of the present invention include providing an apparatus and/or method for supporting a motion estimation of a current block beyond a boundary of a picture that may (i) reduce a size of an external memory, (ii) reduce a size on an internal search memory, (iii) operate without extra processing cycles to generate a frame around a reference picture, (iv) may allow for an unlimited sampling distance outside of the boundary, ~~(iv)~~ (v) reduce memory bandwidth as "framed"

samples may not be fetched from the external memory and/or ~~(v)~~ (vi) map frame information to existing reference picture information.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 16, line 3 with the following paragraph:

The circuit 150 may be implemented as a processing circuit. The processing circuit 150 may be operational to compare each reference and pad sample conveyed by the signal SAMPLE to a corresponding current sample conveyed by the signal ORIG_PIXEL. The processing circuit 150 may generate the multiple values of the signal ABS_DIFF based upon each comparison. Additional details for the processor circuit 150 may be found in the co-pending U.S. non-provisional application "Multi-Standard Variable Block Size Motion Estimation Processor", Serial No. 10/669,930 ~~10/___,___ (Attorney Docket No. 03-0838/1496.00329)~~, filed September 24, 2003, hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.